

BELLEVUE NETWORK ON AGING  
REGULAR MEETING  
MINUTES

October 4, 2012  
8:30 a.m.

Bellevue City Hall  
Room 1E-120

MEMBERS PRESENT: Jullie Gray, Jeanne Grote, Beverly Heyden, Howard Katz, Lynne Robinson, Berta Seltzer, Diana Thompson, Janet Zielasko

MEMBERS ABSENT: Dick Englund, Hannah Kimball, Bob Megargel, Bill Merriman, Eileen Rasnack, Terri Wilson

STAFF PRESENT: Cathy VonWald, Department of Parks & Community Services

OTHERS PRESENT: Franz Loewenherz - Transportation Department; Kathy Barker, Lt. Singleton & Margi Trachtman - Fire Department; State Senator Steve Litzow, Barbara Lee-Eastside Legal Assistance Program

RECORDING SECRETARY: Teri Ekstrom

**WELCOME AND ROLL CALL**

The meeting was called to order at 8:35 a.m. by Jeanne Grote who presided. All committee members were present with the exception of Dick Englund, Hannah Kimball, Bob Megargel, Bill Merriman, Eileen Rasnack, and Terri Wilson.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES – September 6, 2012**

There was a motion to accept the minutes as written and the motion was seconded. The motion was voted on unanimously to approve the minutes.

**TRANSIT MASTER PLAN BRIEFING (PRESENTATION)**

Ms. Grote once again introduced Franz Loewenherz, Sr. Transportation Planner, to the group and thanked him for returning to update the group on the Transit Master Plan.

There are several motivations for the City updating the Transit Master Plan. The City is looking at the possibility of significant cuts and so they want to be prepared when this time comes and be in the position to safeguard resources and services. Another motivation is that Metro has rethought how it allocates Metro services. Metro has developed a new policy framework outlining how to equitably serve the different areas of the County. They have moved towards three priority emphasis efforts: productivity, social equity, and geographic value. The update to the Transit Master Plan is responding to this new Metro policy framework and to the East link alignment which we want to be positioned to respond to. Transportation is among the top

ranked priorities for Bellevue residents and is an important contributor to Bellevue's economic vitality.

Throughout the Transit Plan process, the City has done a lot of community outreach and there has been a lot of interest in the project. An online questionnaire had 4,200 respondents. Areas of concern include the time it takes to get through Bellevue's roadways, and social equity. Transit is not just about the work trip, but also it allows people with disabilities to get around. Outreach included non-native English speakers. Over 100 comment cards were translated for their input. The Project Principles scope of work is comprised of three different areas: service element, capital element, and policy element. These are the three elements that we are addressing. On September 18<sup>th</sup>, the Transit Forum was held with the Council/Commissions in the city to ask them to help prioritize what improvements need to be made. The Transportation Commission has oversight but we will continue to get input from these other Commissions/Boards to broaden our perspective.

Several BNOA members indicated that Metro needs to coordinate transportation with events happening in the area and also that they see low ridership on the new RapidRide line. Mr. Loewenherz said that coordination is a big part of the project and they meet regularly with other jurisdictions as well as transit partners. He said he doesn't have the figures available for the Rapid Ride ridership but statistics in general indicate that transit ridership is up 15%.

Ms. Robinson stated that when you see low ridership it isn't necessarily an indication of people who don't want to ride it. It means that it isn't serving their needs. Especially with high school students, they cannot take it because it would be 40 minutes for a 15 minute trip. So, if the high school students were better served by the bus then they would take it. Mr. Loewenherz stated they received a 30 page letter from Bellevue Schools and they are working with them to better understand their service to students.

## PUBLIC COMMENT

Guests to the meeting were asked to introduce themselves at this time. State Senator Steve Litzow introduced himself and said he wanted say hello and to thank the BNOA for all of their work that they are doing. The transportation issue is timely since it will be brought up in the legislative session. He said to feel free to keep in touch with him and your City Council and also Judy Clibborn who is the State Representative chair of the State Transportation Committee.

Barbara Lee, Eastside Legal Assistance Service, introduced herself. She said in respect to transportation, many of their clients do rely on public transportation. Her agency is very sensitive to locating our clinics in areas that are accessible to public transportation.

Kathy Barker, Bellevue Fire Department, introduced herself and Margi Trachtman who is the volunteer coordinator for the Police Department. Ms. Barker stated that they have three new projects coming up: 1) received a grant from King County Emergency Medical Services to purchase Fall Prevention devices and hardware that we will install in people's homes. She applied for seven safety devices and they gave me enough to service 15-20 people. As soon as

those funds become available, the program will begin to target people who are at risk of falling; 2) the second grant it is through FEMA for smoke detectors. A group of five WA State Fire Marshals put in for this particular grant (Redmond, Lake Stevens, Wenatchee, Bellevue, and South King County). The grant will allow us to purchase 100 smoke detectors for those who are deaf & hard of hearing. The grant targets single family homes, but with the deaf & hard of hearing, multifamily dwellings will be included. The BNOA was asked to contact Ms. Barker if there are any clients they know who would benefit from this program and 3) Bellevue is starting a program similar to the Kent Fire Department program, Fire Department Cares (FD Cares) . . . addressing those people who are calling 911 regularly for non-emergency calls. Many times there are larger issues that cannot be addressed with one 911 call and these folks need additional help to find resources. There is currently no budget for this project but Ms. Trachtman is going to be working on this with Lt. Singleton.

Ms. Trachtman stated as the emergency personnel respond to frequent non-emergency calls the clients will be referred to this program. Social work students will contact the clients and meet with them to complete a needs assessment and assist the client with the necessary resources. This program is very successful in the cities that have implemented it to date. Ms. Trachtman stated that her role is to develop a framework for the program and partner with professional associations that have the skills that are needed. The resources will then be put into place so that the emergency personnel can refer to it. Ms. Gray offered to be a resource for this program.

Lt. Singleton said that people who don't know what to do about an issue will call 911 for help. This is what the FD Cares program is for. He said that they got their first client for the program this week and proceeded to tell about the client situation. These frequent 911 callers is an issue that is consistent across the country. Ms. Barker noted that the rate of falls in Bellevue is very high. Ms. VonWald agreed and offered that the percentage of adults over 60 in Bellevue is 19% and for those over 65 the percentage is 13.4%. This is higher than the County percentages and most other cities. Lt. Singleton shared "FD Cares.com" for additional information about the program.

Ms. VonWald noted that the BNOA is a great resource and to let the group know how they can help.

BREAK

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

### A. Outreach (reported by Ms. Thompson)

Ms. Thompson reminded members about the Home Is Where The Heart Is Fair on October 20<sup>th</sup>. Those wishing to volunteer at the City table should contact Ms. VonWald. Ms. VonWald also reminded the group that Senior Information and Assistance information will be in the October and November utility bills. Ms. Thompson is arranging for a resource table at the YMCA in the near future. We talked about having motorized vehicles at the Bellevue Botanical Garden. Ms. Robinson was going to contact the San Juan County Parks to see how they went about getting their vehicles in their parks.

Ms. Thompson is going to contact John Burwell in regard to the Vial of Life video and it's airing on BTV. Mr. Katz will poll the committee to determine the next meeting date and time.

B. Transportation/Housing (reported by Ms. Grote)

Tonight is an update on East Link at City Hall. ARCH has contacted the committee to update the Housing site. Members are doing that now. Ms. VonWald stated that the Comprehensive Plan is being updated in the near future and Janet Lewine will contact us as to how we can best give input into the update.

C. Advocacy (reported by Ms. Thompson)

The Silver Tsunami candidate's forum on October 1<sup>st</sup> was attended by over 200 people. 16 candidates were in attendance. It was a successful event. If you have any feedback, please contact Ms. Thompson.

In regard to the Older Americans Act, we, together with other cities, wrote a letter to our representatives that our Older Americans Act is very important and should be reauthorized.

The Senior Lobby Conference is October 26<sup>th</sup> in Tacoma. It is all day and a very entertaining conference that is worth going to.

## COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP REPORTS

A. Parks & Community Services Board – (Ms. Robinson reporting)

Ms. Grote noted that the age friendly playground at the Downtown Park was dedicated on September 29<sup>th</sup>.

B. Eastside Easy Rider Collaborative

The next meeting is October 30<sup>th</sup>. Hopelink will be coming to the BNOA November meeting to provide information about the neighborhood shuttle grant program. Ms. VonWald spoke about the bus passes that you are able to get when you get your license tab renewal. She said a list of the organizations that you could donate the bus passes to was distributed, or you can choose to get the bus passed and donate them to the agency of your choice.

C. Eastside Human Services Forum

Ms. VonWald is chairing the Advocacy Committee for the Forum. Their Legislative agenda is tied in with the BNOA agenda. It will be reviewed by the Work Group next week and then approved after that.

#### D. Eastside Time Bank (Jeanne Grote reporting)

The next potluck is October 11 at North Bellevue Community Center. They did get their non-profit status.

#### E. Aging and Disability Services Advisory Council (Ms. Seltzer reporting)

Ms. Seltzer stated the funding for the Elder Abuse project funding has been extended through 2013.

Ms. Thompson stated that the next Aging and Disability meeting is here in Bellevue on November 9<sup>th</sup>. It is a Transportation Forum that is open to the public. Ms. VonWald will send the notice out to everyone.

#### STAFF REPORT

Ms. VonWald stated that there have been eleven applications for the open seats on the BNOA. The deadline for applications is tomorrow. The Nominating Committee will meet next week to review the returning members, as well as review the new application. The Committee will be looking at attendance and other items of returning members.

Ms. VonWald said she attended the State Council on Aging meeting and they are also developing their legislative agenda which we are working off of for the Eastside Human Services Forum. Aging and Disability Services Administration at the State level developed a 5 year plan for the Aging and Disability Resource Centers (ADRC's). If the Older American's Act is reauthorized it may free up some funding for this.

Ms. VonWald attended a forum at UW called "Creating Elder Friendly Communities". It would be great, as they move forward, to have them out to talk with our group about the research project after the first of the year. They are going to have a two day event next year in September to bring the community together and talk about further research and initiatives. It would be great opportunity to be plugged in with the university to have resources.

Announcement – North Bellevue Community Center is getting a fitness room. Construction starts Monday. We will have orientation, monthly passes, a personal trainer available (for an additional cost), etc. All of the machines are resistance machines and some are accessible to all (even in a wheelchair).

#### Upcoming meetings:

November – Hopelink presentation on Neighborhood Shuttle program

December – end of the year celebration with new members. We will talk about the retreat. Ms. VonWald suggested that a high priority will be to set a work plan for each committee at the retreat.

## NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Katz noted that Senior Services is having their major fundraiser on Friday, October 12<sup>th</sup> at the Hyatt Regency at 5:30pm. It is a silent auction at 5:30pm with dinner and a regular auction at 7:00pm. It is \$200/person so let Mr. Katz know if you are interested in attending.

## ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned at 10:30 am.